

# **DRAFT**

# **Elmslie Memorial Conservation Area**

## **Ten-Year Area Management Plan FY 2016-2025**



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## OVERVIEW

- **Official Area Name:** Elmslie Memorial Conservation Area, # 6918
- **Year of Initial Acquisition:** 1969
- **Acreage:** 235 acres
- **County:** Marion
- **Division with Administrative Responsibility:** Forestry
- **Division with Maintenance Responsibility:** Forestry
- **Statements of Purpose:**
  - A. Strategic Direction**

Manage for healthy, sustainable, forest, woodland and aquatic communities for future generations to use and enjoy. Manage to provide outdoor recreational opportunities compatible with the site.
  - B. Desired Future Condition**

The desired future condition of Elmslie Memorial Conservation Area (CA) is healthy forest, woodland and riparian ecosystems that provide a variety of public use opportunities.
  - C. Federal Aid Statement**

N/A

## GENERAL INFORMATION AND CONDITIONS

- I. Special Considerations**
  - A. Priority Areas:** None
  - B. Natural Areas:** Elmslie Forest Natural Area conserves high-quality upland and bottomland forests in the Mississippi River Hills ecological subsection.
- II. Important Natural Features and Resources**
  - A. Species of Conservation Concern:** Species of conservation concern are known from this area. Area Managers should consult the Natural Heritage Database annually and review all management activities with the Natural History Biologist.
  - B. Caves:** None
  - C. Springs:** None
  - D. Other:** Dry-Mesic Loess/Glacial Till Forest, Mesic Limestone Dolomite Forest, Dry-Mesic Limestone Dolomite Forest, Dry-Mesic Limestone Dolomite Woodland and Mesic Bottomland Forest
- III. Existing Infrastructure**
  - 1 parking lot
  - 0.75 mile hiking trail
  - 1 fishless pond (1 acre)

#### IV. Area Restrictions or Limitations

- A. Deed Restrictions or Ownership Considerations:** None
- B. Federal Interest:** Federal funds may be used in the management of this land. Fish and wildlife agencies may not allow recreational activities and related facilities that would interfere with the purpose for which the State is managing the land. Other uses may be acceptable and must be assessed in each specific situation.
- C. Easements:** None
- D. Cultural Resources Findings:** Yes, records kept with the Missouri Department of Conservation (the Department) Environmental Compliance Specialist. Managers should follow Best Management Practices for Cultural Resources found in the Department Resource Policy Manual.
- E. Hazards and Hazardous Materials:** None observed.
- F. Endangered Species:** Endangered species are not known from this site, but are found in the surrounding area. Area Managers should consult annually with the Natural History Biologist.
- G. Boundary Issues:** None

### MANAGEMENT CONSIDERATIONS

#### V. Terrestrial Resource Management Considerations

Elmslie Memorial CA contains approximately 235 acres of forests and woodlands. Woodland and forest management will focus on maintaining natural communities that provide diverse wildlife.

##### **Challenges and Opportunities:**

- 1) Manage forest and woodland communities.
- 2) Restore and maintain dry-mesic limestone dolomite woodlands.
- 3) Monitor natural area.
- 4) Continue Resource Science monitoring and evaluation study.

**Management Objective 1:** Maintain healthy trees and woodlands with management emphasis on wildlife habitat and improved forest health and diversity.

**Strategy 1:** Conduct a complete forest inventory on the area that will be used to guide future management decisions. (Forestry)

**Strategy 2:** Manage the area to benefit species of conservation concern and woodland and forest communities. Management actions include, but are not limited to, conducting forest stand improvement, prescribed burns, snag retention and a multi-layered canopy with small gaps. Conduct management actions in accordance with the forest management plan developed based on the forest inventory. (Forestry)

**Strategy 3:** Monitor forests and woodlands for invasive vegetation, diseases and insects. Suppress any infestations that may develop by using mechanical and chemical control methods. (Wildlife, Forestry)

**Strategy 4:** Continue the monitoring and evaluation study being conducted on the area. The study involves the restoration and maintenance of upland oak communities on mesic sites. (Resource Science)

**Management Objective 2:** Restore and maintain dry-mesic limestone dolomite woodlands.

**Strategy 1:** Remove invasive eastern red cedar that has become established. (Forestry, Wildlife)

**Strategy 2:** Maintain dry-mesic limestone dolomite woodland community by reducing the non-oak woody saplings. Management actions include, but are not limited to, mechanical and chemical control methods. (Forestry, Wildlife)

**Strategy 3:** Use prescribed fire as needed to remove woody plant species and promote native vegetation. (Forestry, Wildlife)

**Management Objective 3:** Maintain and enhance the 100-acre natural area.

**Strategy 1:** Monitor the area for invasive species. Suppress any infestations that may develop using appropriate methods. (Forestry)

**Strategy 2:** Implement a prescribed fire regime, if practical, to maintain the natural area for promotion of the unique and diverse natural communities and their associated flora and fauna. (Forestry)

**Strategy 3:** Survey the natural area for species of conservation concern. (Wildlife)

## **VI. Aquatic Resources Management Considerations**

### **Challenges and Opportunities:**

- 1) The South Fork of the North River flows 0.41 miles through Elmslie Memorial CA.
- 2) There is a 1-acre pond on Elmslie Memorial CA. It serves as a wildlife-watering site and important habitat for amphibians and reptiles.

**Management Objective 1:** Establish or maintain a forested corridor along all streams on the area.

**Strategy 1:** Maintain a forested corridor through natural regeneration or planting. A minimum 200-foot wide corridor should be maintained, where not limited by area boundary. Where access roads or parking lots are in the stream corridor, they should be relocated outside of the corridor, if feasible. (Forestry)

**Strategy 2:** All management activities on Elmslie Memorial CA should follow the *Watershed and Stream Management Guidelines for Lands and Waters Managed by the Missouri Department of Conservation* (Missouri Department of Conservation, 2009). (Forestry)

**Management Objective 2:** Provide suitable habitat for amphibians and reptiles in the pond with no fisheries management potential.

**Strategy 1:** Maintain the pond as a fishless wildlife-watering hole as the pool isn't suitable to providing long-term fisheries management options. (Fisheries)

## **VII. Public Use Management Considerations**

### **Challenges and Opportunities:**

- 1) Provide for hunting and wildlife viewing opportunities.
- 2) Maintain and encourage educational and interpretive opportunities.
- 3) Maintain hiking trail for user access.
- 4) Build relationships with neighboring landowners.

**Management Objective 1:** Provide quality deer, turkey and squirrel hunting opportunities by managing the forest and glade habitat.

**Strategy 1:** Manage the area's diverse habitat for a variety of wildlife species. (Wildlife)

**Management Objective 2:** Maintain and encourage educational and interpretive opportunities on Elmslie Memorial CA.

**Strategy 1:** Communicate to the public the recreational opportunities available on the area through use of tools like brochures and accurate information in the Missouri Atlas database. (Forestry, Outreach and Education)

**Strategy 2:** Communicate to teachers, students, scout groups and youth groups the uniqueness of the area. Promote as a possible destination for ecology classes, school programs and workshops. (Outreach and Education)

**Management Objective 3:** Maintain hiking trail for user access.

**Strategy 1:** Keep hiking trail clear of brush and downed trees to allow for ingress and egress. (Forestry)

**Strategy 2:** Maintain best management practices on hiking trail to minimize soil erosion and sedimentation. (Forestry)

**Strategy 3:** Keep trail properly blazed to improve the ability of users to navigate the trail. (Forestry)

**Management Objective 4:** Facilitate a good working relationship with neighboring landowners.

**Strategy 1:** Work with neighbors to minimize any boundary, trespass, or other issues affecting Elmslie Memorial CA or private property. (Forestry)

## VIII. Administrative Considerations

### **Challenges and Opportunities:**

- 1) Maintain area infrastructure.
- 2) Acquisition of land.

**Management Objective 1:** Maintain area infrastructure.

**Strategy 1:** Maintain area infrastructure in accordance with Department guidelines. (Forestry)

### **Lands Proposed for Acquisition:**

When available, adjacent land may be considered for acquisition from willing sellers. Tracts that improve area access, provide public use opportunities, contain unique natural communities and/or species of conservation concern, or meet other Department priorities, as identified in the annual Department land acquisition priorities, may be considered.

## **MANAGEMENT TIMETABLE**

Strategies are considered ongoing unless listed in the following table:

	<b>FY16</b>	<b>FY17</b>	<b>FY18</b>	<b>FY19</b>	<b>FY20</b>	<b>FY21</b>	<b>FY22</b>	<b>FY23</b>	<b>FY24</b>	<b>FY25</b>
<b>Terrestrial Resource Management</b>										
<i>Objective 1</i>										
Strategy 1							X			
<i>Objective 2</i>										
Strategy 1	X									
<i>Objective 3</i>										
Strategy 3	X									
<b>Public Use Management</b>										
<i>Objective 3</i>										
Strategy 3		X			X			X		

## APPENDICES

### Area Background:

The area consists of 235 acres of mostly forested land donated to the Missouri Department of Conservation by Dr. and Mrs. Wallace P. Elmslie of Quincy, Illinois, who wanted to preserve the area's high-quality bird and plant habitat.

Due to the scientific and educational value, the southern 100 acres of the area have been designated a Natural Area for special study and management. Elmslie Natural Area contains diverse and unique forest communities, including bottomland hardwoods that transition to upland mixed hardwood species. Visitors can acquaint themselves with these forest communities and their associated shrubs and wildflowers with a short hike.

The South Fork of the North River flows through the area for more than 0.41 miles. This small, scenic, usually clear stream provides fishing for bass and panfish. A corridor of undisturbed vegetation is maintained along the waterway to prevent erosion of the banks and to enhance the stream's aesthetic quality.

### Current Land and Water Types:

Land/Water Type	Acres	Feet	% of Area
Forest and Woodland	235		100
Stream Frontage		2,185	

### References:

Missouri Department of Conservation. (2009). *Watershed and stream management guidelines for lands and water managed by Missouri Department of Conservation*. Jefferson City, Missouri: Missouri Department of Conservation.

### Maps:

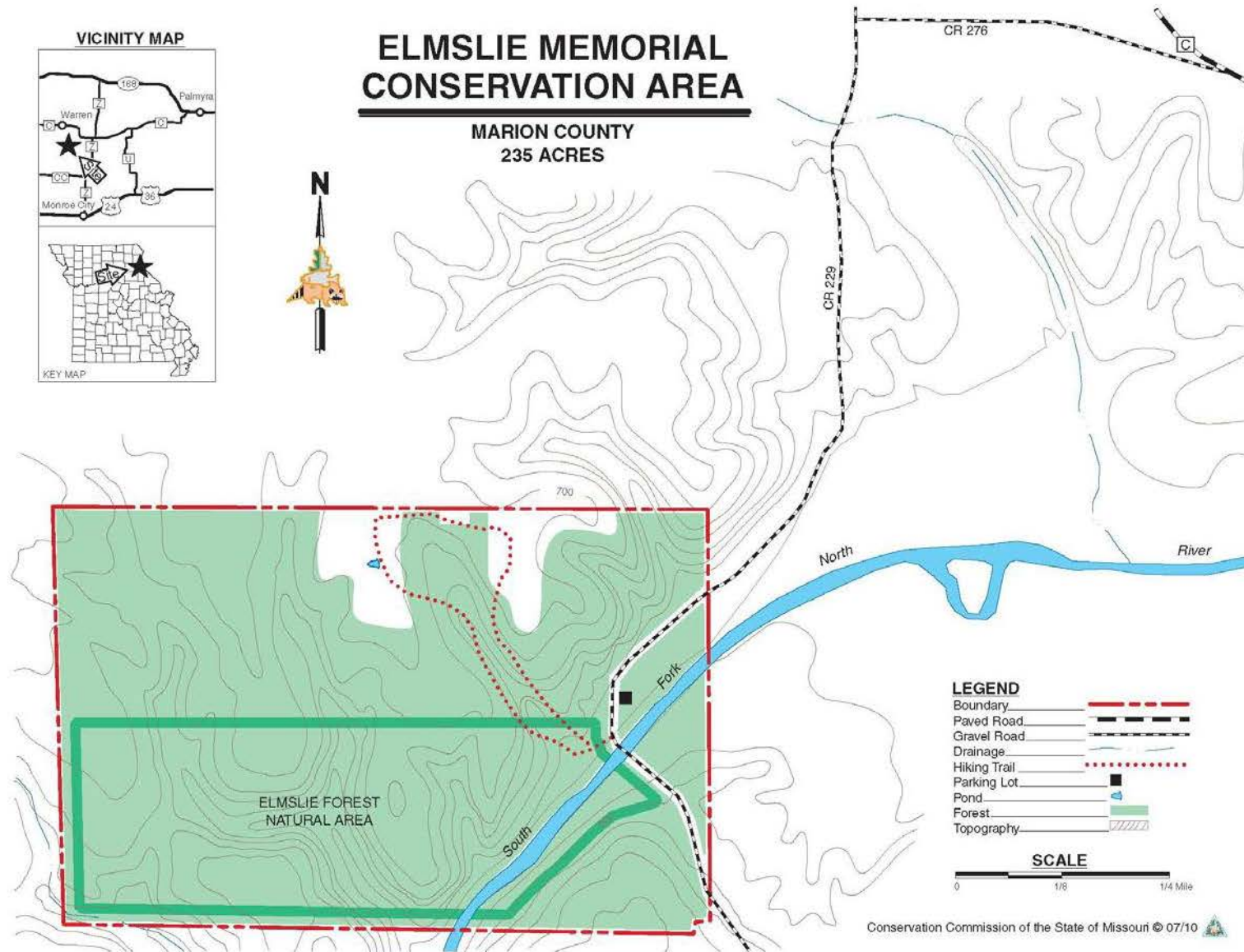
Figure 1: Area Map

Figure 2: Aerial Map

Figure 3: Topographic Map

Figure 4: 2015 Vegetation Map

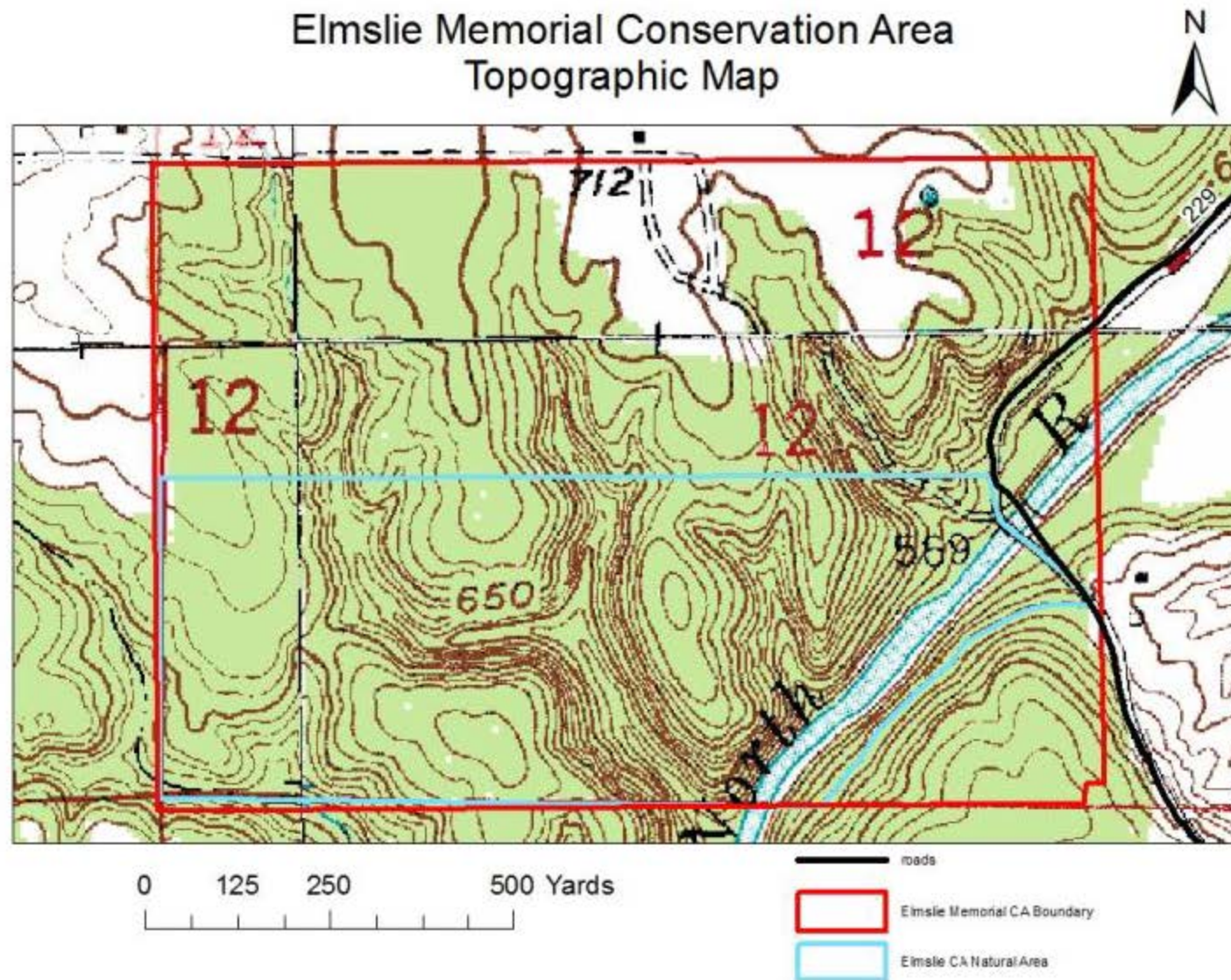
Figure 1: Area Map



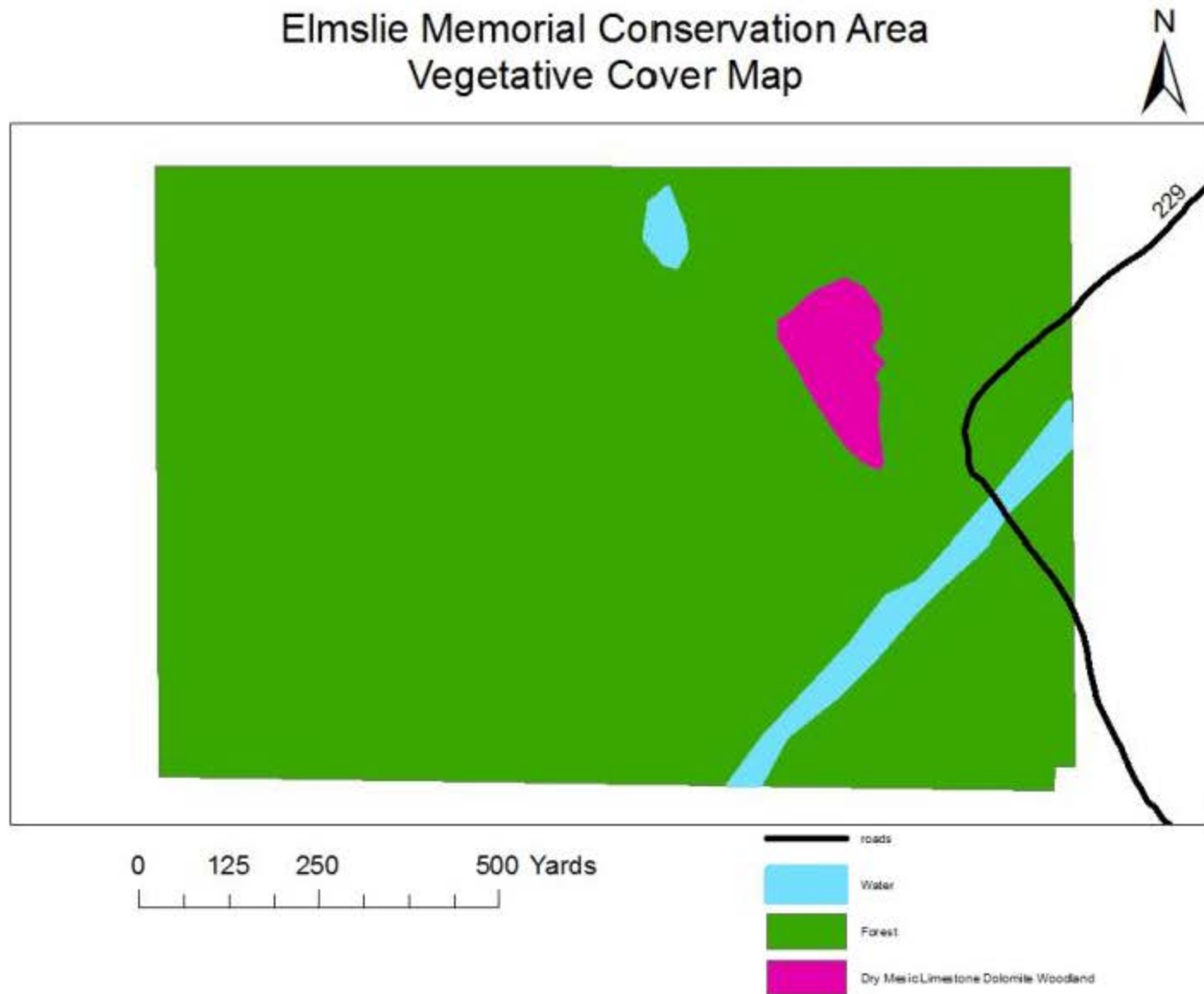
**Figure 2: Aerial Map**



Figure 3: Topographic Map



**Figure 4: 2015 Vegetation Map**



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